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The special object of the author, however, as the title of his book implies, was to study the political and commercial conditions and prospects of the Germans in the western hemisphere. He tells of many a lost opportunity, lost sometimes through lack of knowledge of actual conditions in the home offices, sometimes to lack of initiative, sometimes to lack of harmony among the German element abroad, and tries very hard to make his readers realize the necessity for Germany to hold her own on the western continents, not by political occupation, but by commercial penetration, because their central position between the two large oceans and the coasts of Europe and Asia will make the two Americas more and more the territory on which the large commercial prizes of the future will be won.

M. K. G.

**La Hongrie au XX<sup>me</sup> siècle. Étude économique et sociale. Par René Gonnard, professeur d'économie politique à l'université de Lyon.** pp. xii-400. Paris, Libr. Armand Colin, 1908. 4 frs.

The author deplures, not without cause, that too little is known about Hungary abroad, and tries to give his readers a general picture of the agricultural, economic, and social conditions of that country by virtue of his personal observations and his study of original official documents of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture to which he had access. Incidentally, a large part of his book contains also geographical descriptions of the country itself which are real contributions to the *Länderkunde* of Europe. Hungary proper, or the country of the Magyars, is the political area of that name minus Transylvania and Croatia-Slavonia, which form geographical units by themselves by reason of their topographical as well as ethnological character. It is essentially the plain of the Danube and its tributaries, and may be subdivided into three, or rather four, smaller divisions: (1) the Mesopotamian region between the parallel courses of the Danube and Theiss rivers, the famous *Alföld*, an almost mathematical plain; (2 and 3) the higher plains east of the Theiss and west of the Danube, and (4) the hilly country north of these two rivers which gradually rises to the Tatra and Carpathian Mts. The *Alföld* is especially the heart of Hungary and the center of Magyar domination, and its landscape, with its grey or black soil, almost everywhere under cultivation, either as fields or pastures, its entire absence of rocks and pebbles even, and hence its bottomless roads where no bicycle or automobile has yet penetrated, its low houses of unbaked clay, its solitary lines of acacias, is a singular combination of greatness and monotony.

Nor do the silhouettes of the cities break the pervading impression of flatness, as even large ones like Szegedin, Kecskemét, etc., with from 60,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, are nothing but agglomerations of those low country houses, regular farmer cities, with no high buildings except the steeples of the churches and the domes of the synagogues. East of the Theiss the horizon is enlivened by occasional hills, and the country is intersected by rivers, tributaries of the Theiss, while the *Alföld* is practically streamless save for the two watercourses which bound it. This eastern plain is the country of cattle and horse breeding, with conditions quite similar to the American West. West of the Danube the country is still better watered, and especially rich in lakes; it is a country of fisheries and vineyards. The hilly district in the North is the least Magyar of the three, but rich in scenic beauty, and the home of the Tokay grape.

The opinion generally entertained abroad that the soil of Hungary is almost entirely monopolized by the large landowners is considerably exaggerated. No more than 12,000,000 hectares are taken up by the large estates, against 6,000,000

hectares of middle-sized ones and 13,000,000 hectares of small estates. The existence of the two latter classes is endangered, however, by the divisions among the numerous children of the owners, which has led, partly, to the practice of Malthusian principles and partly to a diminution of the prospective heirs by emigration of the younger members of the families to the United States, less frequently also to South America. As a rule, the homes of the Hungarian peasant surprise the visitor by their cleanliness, neatness, and comparative comfort, while those of the large landowners are rarely less than enlarged specimens of farmers' houses, real castles being comparatively rare. The author gives many interesting descriptions of rich and poor homes which he visited, which convey a better idea of life in Hungary than could be gained by a most accurate systematic description.

The labour problem, once very simple, is beginning to be less so. The former serfs who still live on the estates as free servants are comparatively well to do; but an extensive legislation has seemed necessary to regulate the relations between day and season labourers and their employers. Socialism is penetrating even into Hungary, especially since the introduction of manufacturing into the once purely agricultural country, in obedience to the national desire for independence from Austria, both industrially and politically. A large part of the book describes the admirable efforts of the national government to foster these new industries and increase the returns of the soil by means of museums, experiment stations, technical schools, etc., which cannot fail greatly to improve the condition of the country and its people, if only the latter show themselves capable of profiting by such intelligent paternalism.

The author betrays himself as a warm friend of Hungary, and there are not many scientific publications which show so ostensibly their author's enthusiasm for their subject. How large a part of the latter has its foundation in the common antagonism of Frenchman and Hungarian against Germany and the Germans, and how much of it must be credited to personal reminiscences of an evidently very pleasant character, is not for the outsider to decide. At all events, the book gives an interesting account of the advantageous and hopeful traits of Hungary and its people, leaving it to others to supplement the picture by the shadows which must be there but of which this book makes no mention. M. K. G.

**The Gateway to the Sahara. Observations and Experiences in Tripoli.** By Charles Wellington Furlong. xxi and 306 pp., Illustrations, Maps and Index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909. \$2.50.

Comparatively little has been written on Tripoli, and recent years have added almost nothing in English and very little in other languages to books or reports on that country. Mohammedan-ruled, Tripoli is still in the Middle Ages, almost untouched by the progress that has revolutionized neighbouring Tunis and Algeria and looking askance at the white races.

Mr. Furlong has written a good though not a scientific book, and it is well worth a place on library shelves. He has fulfilled his intention to give, by word and picture, an accurate view of the old Barbary capital, its customs, industries and antiquated business ways, and of the primitive methods and patriarchal life of the people living in the oases and on the tablelands of Tripolitania. His coloured and black-and-white illustrations and photographs have unusual charm and vividly enhance interest in the scenes which they depict.

He gives also glimpses of life far south of the region of his travels, especially in the story he tells of Salam, one of his servants and formerly a Hausa slave and